

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">Garner Police Department</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Written Directive</h2>	
	Chapter: 800 - Operations	
	Directive: 810.03 - Special Response Team Operations	
Authorized by: Interim Chief Lorie Smith		Effective Date: October 4, 2021
CALEA Standards: 33.6.2, 46.1.4, 46.2.2, 46.2.3 (6 th Edition)		

810.3.1 - Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines and procedures for the activation and deployment of the Department's Special Response Team.

810.3.2 - Policy

It is the policy of the Garner Police Department to maintain a Special Response Team of specially trained and equipped officers who may be deployed to reduce the risk of injury and loss of life to citizens, police officers, and suspects when called upon. All guidelines, procedures, and directives related to tactical operations will be reviewed annually by the Special Response Team Commander.

810.3.3 - Definitions

- A. Assistant Team Leader - A member of the SRT who may be called upon to manage a component of an SRT response.
 - 1. The Assistant Team Leader reports to and assists the Special Response Team Commander and the Team Leader and may serve as the Special Response Team Commander in the absence of both the Special Response Team Commander and the Team Leader.
 - 2. The Assistant Team Leader is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the Special Response Team Commander.
- B. Entry Team – A team of officers designed to implement a calculated and planned entry into an objective. An Entry Team may also be used to serve high risk or dangerous warrants.
- C. High-Risk Situation - Any situation endangering the life or safety of an officer and/or citizen including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Barricaded Subject - A person who is a threat to the safety of him or herself, others, and/or the property of others who, after the commission of a crime, attempts to avoid apprehension by taking refuge in a fortified location.
 - 2. Hostage Situation - An incident in which an individual or a group of individuals takes others against their will and attempts to use them to escape, to gain notoriety, or to acquire something of value.
 - 3. Suicidal Subject – A person who is a threat to their own safety and who refuses to cooperate with attempts to provide mental health or other appropriate services.

- D. Incident Commander - The individual, typically a supervisor, who is responsible for directing and controlling the activities and resources at the scene of an incident, as outlined in [GPD Directive 810.06, Incident Command System](#).
- E. Operator – An officer who has been selected for the SRT and has successfully completed an approved tactical training class; unless noted otherwise, this includes all supervisory personnel.
- F. Marksman/Observer – An SRT Operator who has received specialized training with a bolt rifle and scope for the purpose of delivering precision shots, providing security for SRT movements, and/or gathering intelligence while utilizing field craft during high risk operations.
- G. Special Response Team (SRT) - A team of officers specially trained and equipped to deal with high risk situations.
- H. Special Response Team Commander - The individual responsible for the deployment of the SRT and tactical decision making at an incident.
- I. Team Leader – A member of the SRT who may be called upon to manage a component of an SRT response.
 - 1. The Team Leader reports to and assists the Special Response Team Commander and may serve as the Special Response Team Commander in his/her absence.
 - 2. The Team Leader is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the Special Response Team Commander.

810.3.4 – SRT Member Selection (46.2.2)

- A. Special Response Team members are chosen from officers assigned other full-time duties, and serve as SRT members on a part-time basis.
 - 1. Applicants for positions on the SRT must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in [GPD directive 310.05, Career Alternatives & Opportunities Program](#).
 - 2. Any SRT selection process will be conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in [GPD directive 310.05, Career Alternatives & Opportunities Program](#).
- B. The Chief of Police will review applicants for the SRT and determine the final selection.

810.3.5 – SRT Team Equipment (46.2.3)

- A. The SRT will be issued specialty equipment including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. The team will be equipped with ballistic shields, chemical munitions, entry tools, and less lethal munitions.
 - 2. Individual team members will be issued ballistic helmets, communication gear, gas masks, gloves, goggles, specialized weapons, tactical uniforms, and tactical body armor.
- B. The SRT operators will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and security of all equipment issued to them as individuals and to the team as a whole.
- C. The Special Response Team Commander or designee will be responsible for notifying the Quartermaster whenever equipment is issued to or retrieved from an operator for tracking in the Records Management System.

810.3.6 – Training (33.6.2)

- A. SRT members will attend a minimum of 16 hours of mandatory monthly team training.
1. The Special Response Team Commander or his designee will coordinate and develop monthly training.
 2. The training conducted will be documented on a [SRT Training Attachment form \(GPD form 810.3-B\)](#) and attendance will be documented on a [SRT Training Roster \(GPD form 810.3-C\)](#). Both forms will be uploaded in PowerDMS under the SRT Training section.
 3. The SRT will periodically train with the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) to ensure operational understanding between the units. Training conducted with CNT may count toward the mandatory monthly training hours
 4. SRT members are encouraged to participate in training with other agency tactical units in the region when approved by the Special Response Team Commander. Training conducted with other agencies may count toward the mandatory monthly training hours.
 5. Any absence from monthly team training must be approved in advance by the Special Response Team Commander or Team Leader. Any mandatory training necessary to maintain a certification that is missed must be made up at another time.
- B. Recurring SRT training and qualifications will include the following:
1. SRT Operators must qualify twice per year on all SRT courses of fire for their issued sub gun, carbine, and handgun in accordance with the requirements in [GPD directive 710.02, Weapons Authorization & Use](#).
 - a. Operators who fail to qualify will be placed on inactive SRT status until such time that they receive remedial firearms training and then successfully qualify.
 - b. If an operator misses a required qualification session due to a temporary absence, he/she will be required to make up the qualification(s) within thirty (30) days of returning to full SRT duty status.
 2. SRT Marksman/Observers must qualify annually with their Marksman/Observer rifle in accordance with the requirements in [GPD directive 710.02, Weapons Authorization & Use](#).
 - a. Marksman/Observers who fail to qualify will be placed on inactive Marksman/Observer status until such time that they receive remedial firearms training and then successfully qualify. This status will not impact the Marksman/Observer's ability to serve as an SRT operator during this time.
 - b. If a Marksman/Observer misses a required qualification session due to a temporary absence, he/she will be required to make up the qualification within thirty (30) days of returning to full SRT and/or Marksman/Observer duty status.
 3. SRT Operators must demonstrate proficiency with all less lethal munitions in accordance with the requirements in [GPD directive 710.02, Weapons Authorization & Use](#).
 4. SRT Operators who fail to meet the Departmental standard on any required fitness test will be non-operational until such time that they meet the Departmental standard. Any operator who goes for more than six months without meeting the Departmental standard will have their status as an operator reviewed by the Chief of Police.

5. Dynamic and static entry techniques shall be reviewed in a classroom setting and performed in practical exercises at least annually.
6. Noise/Flash Diversionary Device deployment and safety guidelines shall be reviewed in a classroom setting at least annually.
7. Operational readiness drills and realistic simulations will be conducted through tabletop and practical exercises at the discretion of the Special Response Team Commander.

810.3.7 – SRT Deployment

- A. Team members are expected to respond within sixty (60) minutes to tactical callouts. Team members will be notified two times with the same notification message to alert them to the nature of the incident and where they need to respond.
- B. Any request to utilize the SRT for a search warrant or a planned operation must be approved by the Operations Captain or, in his absence, the Chief of Police.
- C. In the event of an unplanned high risk situation, the Incident Commander has the authority to request SRT deployment without prior approval from the Operations Captain or Chief of Police. The Incident Commander will make notification via the chain-of-command as soon as practical after SRT is requested.

810.3.8 – SRT Response to High Risk Situations (46.1.4)

- A. The Incident Commander of a high risk situation will retain responsibility for the overall incident when SRT is called to the scene. This will include control of the command post, media relations, and other non-operations functions.
- B. When the Special Response Team Commander arrives at a high risk situation he will normally assume command of the Tactical Operations branch or group depending upon the nature of the incident, other supervisory personnel available, and the Incident Commander's direction.
 1. Team leaders will assist in determining tactical solutions to the situation.
 2. A threat assessment will be utilized to determine potential risks.
 3. It may be necessary for SRT Operators who initially arrive at a high risk situation to develop a hasty plan should immediate action need to be taken prior to a formal incident command and/or tactical plan being established.
 4. All other tactical plans will be approved by the Special Response Team Commander unless exigent circumstances dictate that Operators take immediate action to preserve life.
- C. The Incident Commander, Operations Chief, Negotiations Commander, and Special Response Team Commander will be responsible for coordinating all respective operations and ensuring that the different components involved in the high risk situation are kept informed of all activities that will impact their performance.
- D. SRT responsibilities in a high risk situation will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 1. Securing and maintaining the inner perimeter;
 2. Evacuating civilians within the inner perimeter when necessary and when such actions can be done without compromising the safety of innocent civilians and/or team members;
 3. Determining the need for additional outer perimeter teams and other resources;

4. Providing intelligence and scouting reports to the Special Response Team Commander;
 5. Planning for a tactical deployment; and
 6. Conducting tactical operations to resolve the situation when necessary.
- E. Whenever possible a separate radio channel will be assigned to the SRT. The tactical channel will be for the SRT and command post staff only.
- F. A "Post-Incident Report" will be compiled by the Special Response Team Commander and submitted to the Operations Captain. This report will include information about the tactical aspects of the incident and the following information that is applicable to the particular incident being reported:
1. Date/time of initial notification.
 2. Establishment of tactical command including:
 - a. Location, including a description of the efforts to positively identify the correct physical location for the entry/operation;
 - b. Team members present; and
 - c. A brief description of the type of incident.
 3. Significant events and measures taken to include:
 - a. Deployment of personnel and equipment;
 - b. Life-saving efforts;
 - c. Evacuation and/or relocation efforts;
 - d. Property damage estimate (if applicable); and
 - e. Types of munitions and diversionary devices deployed.
 4. Recommendations for future responses.
- G. In order to protect the physical safety of the SRT Operators and ensure the effectiveness of tactical operations during high risk incidents, all SRT operations, plans, and capabilities will be considered confidential.
1. Personnel and other members of the Department will be kept informed on a "need to know" basis of SRT operations, plans, and capabilities as required to carry out their assigned responsibilities.
 2. Employees are strictly prohibited from disclosing any information related to SRT operations, plans, policies, or capabilities to any unauthorized persons.

810.3.9 – Noise/Flash Diversionary Devices

- A. The SRT is authorized to use Noise/Flash Diversionary Devices (NFDDs) in accordance with Department guidelines and manufacturer recommendations. A Noise/Flash Diversionary Device is a device which produces a loud report and a bright flash and is intended to create a diversion and/or generate lag time, which allows operators to gain control and make the environment safe.

- B. Circumstances justifying the use of NFDDs shall include, but are not limited to:
1. The expectation of encountering an armed suspect(s);
 2. The need or desire to distract a violent, mentally ill, or emotionally disturbed person(s) or person(s) under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, in order to facilitate safe entry or exit and/or apprehension; or
 3. A situation where the Special Response Team Commander deems the use necessary to aid in safely resolving an incident.
- C. The following guidelines shall be adhered to regarding the deployment of NFDDs:
1. Only SRT Operators who have successfully completed a Department-approved training course will be authorized to carry and deploy an NFDD.
 2. Any planned deployment of an NFDD shall be authorized by the Special Response Team Commander during the planning process and shall include a safe secondary deployment site should the planned deployment area be unable to be used.
 3. SRT Operators are authorized to deploy NFDDs without prior approval if exigent circumstances occur and the deployment of an NFDD would enhance officer and/or citizen safety.
 4. Prior to deploying a NFDD available intelligence information and contra indicators (i.e. the presence of young children, elderly or infirm persons, gasoline or explosive materials, etc.) shall be considered.
 - a. The use of a NFDD shall be limited to an area visible to the deploying officer prior to deployment.
 - b. The only exception to this is an operation in which the risk of visual inspection clearly outweighs the potential danger of a blind deployment. The authority for a blind deployment requires prior approval by the Special Response Team Commander absent any emergency circumstances.
 5. Because NFDDs have a potential to ignite flammable materials, a portable fire extinguisher or cold fire will be readily accessible whenever NFDDs are deployed.
- D. The use of a NFDD will be recorded in the after incident report and the appropriate log entries made to record the use of the device.
- E. NFDDs will be stored according to the following guidelines:
1. NFDDs for operational use will be stored in an agency issued secured storage box located in both the SRT covert van and the SRT emergency response truck.
 2. NFDDs that are not assigned to SRT operators will be stored in a locked, reinforced safe located in an area approved by the Special Response Team Commander and the Chief of Police.
 3. Access to any stored NFDDs is strictly limited to SRT operators and the Special Response Team Commander.

810.3.10 – Use of Chemical Munitions

- A. The SRT is authorized to use chemical munitions as a tool to aid in the resolution of high risk situations.
1. CS and OC are the only department approved chemical munitions for SRT use.

2. Only SRT Operators who are able to wear their issued gas mask in compliance with Department requirements are authorized to deploy in an environment where chemical munitions have already been deployed.
3. Only SRT Operators who meet the following requirements will be authorized to deploy chemical munitions.
 - a. The SRT Operator must have successfully completed a Department-approved training course, and
 - b. The SRT Operator must be able to wear their issued gas mask in compliance with Department requirements.
- B. Barricade penetrating chemical munitions will not be deployed without prior authorization from the Special Response Team Commander. Any decision by the Special Response Team Commander to deploy chemical munitions will be based on a belief that the deployment will facilitate incident resolution and/or enhance officer and/or citizen safety.
- C. SRT Operators may use individual pocket smoke or hand deliverable chemical munitions as needed during a high risk operation to facilitate incident resolution and/or enhance officer and/or citizen safety.
- D. The following procedures are recommended for decontamination after the deployment of chemical munitions:
 1. Persons:
 - a. Remove the subject from the source of contamination;
 - b. Notify EMS of the situation; and
 - c. Begin the appropriate decontamination procedure for the chemical type used.
 2. Buildings:
 - a. All spent chemical containers shall be removed from the objective;
 - b. As soon as practical, all doors and windows will be opened; and
 - c. If possible, fire department exhaust fans will be used to assist with ventilation.
- E. The use of chemical munitions will be recorded in the Post Incident Report and will include the type and amount of chemical used, the effect(s) on the subject(s), and any recommendations for future deployment.